



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

### *Ordinary Meeting*

*3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016, Council Chamber*

#### **Presiding**

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Maria Murphy

#### **Councillors Present:**

Councillors, Joe Bonner, Sinéad Burke, Eugene Cassidy, Francis Deane, Eimear Ferguson, Brian Fitzgerald, Pdraig Fitzsimons, Enda Flynn, Wayne Forde, Joe Fox, Noel French, Michael Gallagher, David Gilroy, Trevor Golden, Johnny Guirke, Wayne Harding, Jim Holloway, Suzanne Jamal, Tom Kelly, Sharon Keogan, Nick Killian, Caroline Lynch, Stephen McKee, Ronan McKenna, Paddy Meade, Gerry O'Connor, Claire O' Driscoll, Maria O' Kane, Damien O' Reilly, Darren O'Rourke, Bryan Reilly, Joe Reilly, Sarah Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Alan Tobin, Sharon Tolan, Gillian Toole.

**Apologies:** Cllrs Seán Smith, Seán Drew

#### **Officials in attendance:**

**Chief Executive:** Jackie Maguire

**Directors of Service:** Kevin Stewart, Des Foley, Fiona Lawless, Barry Lynch

**Meetings' Administrator:** Olive Falsey

**Senior Executive Officers:** Dara McGowan, Larry Whelan, Fiona Fallon, Michael Griffin, Ger Murphy

**Planning Staff:** Pdraig Maguire, Senior Executive Planner

#### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Special Finance meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2016.



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The minutes of the Special Finance meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Ronan McKenna** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

### **2 Matters arising from the Minutes**

No matters arising

### **3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations**

Sympathy was extended to:

- John Meighan, former employee and Stephen O'Hare, Motor Tax on the death of their father/grandfather Jack Meighan.
- Marie Cahill, Transportation on the death of her father Seamus Cahill.
- John Lynch, Kells Civic Office on the death of his sister Breda Lynch.
- The family of the late Michael Fitzsimons, including his brothers, former MEP, Jim Fitzsimons and former Councillor, Paddy Fitzsimons, and nephew Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons.

Congratulations were extended to:

- All the towns and villages in the county on their success in the recent Tidy Towns Awards.
- All those involved in the organisation of the Dunshaughlin Harvest Festival.
- The Community Department on organising the first presentation of the Pride of Place Awards.
- The businesses that participated in the recent Blas na hÉireann Awards.
- James Scully, Ratoath, on his success at the Paralympics in Rio.
- Meath U21 Hurlers on winning the All Ireland B final.
- The following GAA Clubs on their recent success: Bective, Moylagh, Kilskyre and Ratoath.
- Navan Historical Society on organising their 'Pop Up Museum on Navan's Industrial Past during Heritage Week.
- All those involved in the launch of Vincent Kennedy's The Chronicles of Meath for Harp Ensemble CD.
- All involved in the completion of the 'Battle of Ashbourne' monument in Ashbourne.



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### **4 Disposal of Land in accordance with Statutory Notices circulated pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001**

### **5 Statutory Business**

#### **5.1 Corporate Services**

- 5.1.1 Appointment of replacement Councillor to the LCDC (Local Community Development Committee).

**Councillor Sharon Tolan** was nominated to the LCDC (Local Community Development Committee) on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O' Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**.

#### **5.2 Planning**

- 5.2.1 To receive the Members' views in respect of a proposed development by North Meath Windfarm Ltd, the subject of the Chief Executive's report to an Bord Pleanála of September 2016 (as circulated) and if thought fit, to resolve to attach recommendations to that report in accordance with Section 37(E) of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2015.

Padraig Maguire, Senior Executive Planner, made the presentation which included information on:

- Previous Emlagh Wind Farm PL.170038 and ABP Decision on PL.17 0038
- Proposed Development and key differences between Emlagh & Castletownmoor Wind Farms.
- Energy Policy
- Planning Policy: Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-2022 (RPGs) and Meath County Development Plan, 2013-2019.
- LCA 3 North Navan Lowlands.
- Planning Assessment – Section 7 – Re-siting, Noise, Shadow Flicker, Ecology, Heritage, Traffic-Borrow Pits, Landscape & Visual.

Following the presentation, the Councillors resolved to recommend that An Bord Pleanála refuse permission for the proposed 25 turbine wind farm development at Castletownmoor, and also requested that An Bord Pleanála consider the individual recommendations of the members set out hereunder.



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- The proposed wind farm has the potential to impact negatively on the integrity and authenticity of Kells and its hinterland, and could impact upon the town's bid to be considered as a future World Heritage Site .
- The potential negative impacts the proposed development would have on the Tourism Development Strategy for Meath and the strategic objectives of "Ireland's Ancient East"
- The proposed wind farm will impact negatively on the social cultural and economic advancement of Kells.
- The proposed development contravenes the County Development Plan, the Local Development Plan policy and will impact on the protected views from the Tower of Lloyd.
- Potential noise impacts – decibel levels – noise monitoring. Low frequency noise emanating from the proposed development has the potential to impact residents with special needs.
- The proposed development will not be good for Meath. Proximity of the development to areas of settlement.
- Questions the economic sustainability of the development at the location proposed. Wind farms of this scale should be located on or off the coastline.
- Noted that wind farms in other counties were tightly clustered and generally located in upland areas away from settlements.
- The proposed development would result "*in communities living within a wind farm*" rather than locating wind farms outside extensively settled working landscapes.
- It is contrary to the wording of a variation proposed by the members of Meath County Council.
- That Meath should exploit its other renewable energy resources.
- Request that the development be refused on the grounds of scale, extent, height and visual dominance together with its potential to impact on amenities and the character of the landscape.
- The Members supported the decision of An Bord Pleanála to refuse the Emlagh Wind farm proposal and urged the Board to treat this application in a similar way.
- The resubmission of a part of the Emlagh wind farm in this proposal would appear to constitute project splitting.
- The level of local opposition to the Castletownmoor wind farm is similar to that of the Emlagh Windfarm.
- Members cautioned that World Heritage site status can also have negative impacts on communities.



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- Referenced the refusal of a smaller 6 turbine development at Nobber because of its potential to impact on a protected structure. It was noted that the current proposal would also impact on protected structures.
- Noted the recently reported views of ESB that subsidies for Wind energy should be scrapped.
- The Councillors requested An Bord Pleanála to hold an oral hearing into this strategic infrastructure development.
- That the proposed development is being proposed as a commercial investment opportunity rather than in response to Ireland's renewable energy targets.
- Members warned against the potential transport and traffic impacts of delivering all concrete required to the development through the local road network.
- Local Communities fear that due process will not be seen to be done and that they will be forced to live within such an imposing development.
- Members were reminded of the views of the economist, Colm McCarthy, where he stated that Ireland should re-evaluate its renewable energy policies in circumstances, where the country has more renewable energy capacity than it needs.
- Members also questioned the relevance of European policy in this area.

The resolution was adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Sarah Reilly**, seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**.

It was also unanimously agreed, on the proposal of **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Councillor Bryan Reilly**, that a letter would be written to An Bord Pleanála requesting that an oral hearing would be held on the matter.

### **5.3 Transportation**

- 5.3.1 To consider the submissions/objections (if any) received in response to the display of the "Draft" Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) (Housing Estates) County of Meath Bye-Laws (No.1) 2016 and to resolve to make the said Bye-Laws in accordance with the Draft document subject to such variations or amendments as considered appropriate, and that said Bye-Laws shall come into force on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016.

Councillors resolved to make the Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) (Housing Estates) County of Meath Bye-Laws (No.1) 2016 on the proposal of **Councillor Ronan McKenna** and seconded by **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons**.



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### 6 Reports

#### 6.1 Chief Executive's Report

Councillors sought clarification on a number of matters in the Chief Executive's report. The main issues raised and discussed included:

**Housing:** The proposed housing development at St. Patrick's Park and the issues re traveller accommodation in the county; request that homeless figures would be circulated to all Councillors; the issue in regard to the installation of carbon monoxide alarms in local authority houses.

**Transportation:** the issues for the Council in regard to the funding of the CIS scheme.

**Planning:** Development levies and how funds will be distributed in the future.

**Corporate Services:** Clarification on the timeframe in regard to the relocation to the Council's new civic offices.

The Chief Executive and the Management Team provided responses on all matters raised.

#### 6.2 Report from the Corporate Policy Group

The Meetings Administrator advised that the Corporate Policy Group reviewed the agenda for the full Council meeting and received information on the particulars of some items. Councillors were informed that Minister Damien English would meet the full Council on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October, at 10.30a.m.

#### 6.3 Report from the Protocol Committee

The Meetings Administrator advised the meeting of the following:

- The committee considered a notice of motion adopted at the Navan Municipal District meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> September to name the bridge on the N3 off the R147 St Martha's Bridge.
- Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, presented the proposed amendments to the draft Twinning Protocol following the presentation at the Municipal District meetings in September. It was agreed to recommend the adoption of the final draft of the Twinning Protocol.
- A draft design for commemorative plaques was presented for consideration.
- The Committee agreed a proposal, which was duly presented in regard to Notices of Questions and Motions. Councillors agreed that further discussion was needed on this matter and that the report would be circulated to each



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individual Councillor for comments. The matter would be referred again to the Protocol Committee.

- The Meetings Administrator also advised that the Protocol Committee received and noted reports on conferences submitted by Councillors, and a list of conferences relevant to the business of the Council was approved.

### **7 Correspondence**

- 7.1 Correspondence from TII in response to Notice of Motion 9.3 adopted at the July meeting of the Full Council re. invitation to the TII to present their plans for the N2 to the members of Meath County Council at a meeting in the Council Chamber in the coming months.

Noted by the Councillors. A discussion took place in regard to the offer outlined in the correspondence to meet a delegation from the Council. It was agreed that Barry Lynch, Director of Services, would liaise with the Municipal Districts in order to agree the membership of the delegation and a suitable date.

- 7.2 Correspondence from a number of Insurance Companies in response to Notice of Motion 9.7 adopted at the July meeting of the Full Council re. request for a review of rating structure for motor insurance.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 7.3 Correspondence from Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (previously circulated) re. Notice of Question 8.5 at the September meeting of the Full Council.

Noted by the Councillors.

### **8 Notice of Question**

#### **8.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane**

*“In relation to emergency housing rented from private landlords by the local authority, I wish to ask the executive:*

*Are these properties inspected with regard to standards for emergency accommodation in addition to safety, fire alarms and carbon monoxide?*

*If so, how regularly are the inspections carried out?”*



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### **Response**

Meath County Council has completed periodic inspections of those units owned by private landlords which are regularly utilised for the purposes of emergency accommodation, to ensure that minimum standards are obtained, including those relating to fire safety. In recent years, these inspections have been conducted annually.

In addition, Meath County Council Homeless Service staff attends emergency accommodation units on a frequent basis, as part of their regular interaction with clients based there. Accordingly, there are regular opportunities to view directly the conditions and standards that exist there, and relay any advices on standards to the property owner.

Noted by the Councillors.

### **8.2 Submitted by Councillor Trevor Golden**

*“Are any systems/polices in place to allow the use of contractors to grit public roads?”*

### **Response**

There is a Winter Gritting Review Sub Group (a Sub Group of the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee) meeting on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September and an SPC meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> October to review and discuss the 2016/2017 Winter Maintenance programme. Systems/polices regarding the use of contractors to salt public roads shall form part of these discussions.

Noted by the Councillors.

### **8.3 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke**

*“To ask the Chief Executive to outline the number and range of communications between Meath County Council and the Minister and Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government regarding the implementation in Meath of the Government's Action Plan on Housing 'Rebuilding Ireland' since the official launch of that Plan on 19th July / Ceist a chur ar an bPríomhfheidmeannach an méid 's an réimse cumarsáide idir Comhairle Chontae na Mí agus an tAire agus an Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála, Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúla maidir le Plean Gníomhaíochta ar Tithíochta an Rialtais, 'Rebuilding Ireland', a fhorfheidhmiú i gContae na Mí ó sheoladh an plean sin ar an 19 Iúil, a chur in iúl.”*

### **Response**





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There is ongoing communication between Meath County Council Housing officials and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in advancing the various housing programmes in the County, and in particular those pertaining to the Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness.

The most recent formal meeting with Department officials to review Meath County Council's Housing Programme was held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016, which reviewed progress across all capital programmes (content of Chief Executive Report – Housing refers) and discussions on new proposals that would assist in realising the Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness in County Meath. Furthermore, the Director of Service for Housing has attended a briefing with Department Officials on the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) with a view to preparing a proposal for submission.

It is important to note that, in advance of the launch of the Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness in July, a detailed submission was made by the Chief Executive to the Department on the matter of Housing and County Meath, complemented by a meeting with the Minister of State for Housing and Urban Renewal, Mr Damien English TD, on 31st May 2016.

Noted by the Councillors.

### **8.4 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin**

*“In light of previously passed motions. Can I ask for an update and date of implementation in relation to the prohibition of the consumption of alcohol in a public place County Meath.”*

#### **Response**

This matter was the subject of a Motion considered at the September 2015 Council Meeting and a response issued as follows: (See below)

### **Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin**

*“In response to previous motions regarding anti-social behaviour, I call on Meath Co. Council to follow other Councils and introduce "bye laws on the prohibition of consumption of intoxicating liquor on roads and public places.”*

**Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.**



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Where it is seen fit in the interest of the common good of a local community to introduce Bye Laws prohibiting the consumption of intoxicating liquor in public places, the statutory powers are provided for in Part 19 of the Local Government Act 2001 and the 2006 Bye Law Regulations and with adoption being a reserved function of the Elected Members of the Council.

Navan Town Council was one of a number of Local Authorities who adopted such Bye Laws in 2011 following the prescribed public consultation process and including extensive consultation with An Garda Síochána – following the abolition of the Town Councils these Bye Laws are now deemed to be Bye Laws under the control of Meath County Council.

While all such Bye Laws provide for implementation by “authorised persons”, the practical enforcement of them predominantly rests with the Gardaí having regard to anti social behaviour often associated with the consumption of alcohol in public places late at night and on weekends. For this reason it is suggested that any proposal to introduce such Bye Laws to other Towns in the County should first be the subject of discussion with the Gardaí and it is considered that the appropriate forum for this would be the Joint Policing Committee, the first meeting of which is scheduled for the 17<sup>th</sup> September.

It is pointed out that the Meath Parks and Playgrounds Bye Laws adopted in 2014 makes it an offence for persons to:

“Have in their possession, in a park, for the purpose of supply or consumption any alcohol, save with the permission in writing of the Council and subject to such conditions as the Council may prescribe. No person shall have in their possession, for the purpose of consumption any alcohol except in an area designated by the Council for that purpose.”

The motion has since been the subject of discussion with the Gardaí and particularly at Joint Policing Committee meetings. While further discussions are proposed, it has been suggested that sufficient authority is already available to the Gardaí to deal with public order offences often associated with consumption of alcohol in public places through the Criminal Justice Acts, as well as the Council’s own Meath Parks and Playgrounds Bye Laws 2014.

Noted by the Councillors.

### **8.5 Submitted by Councillor Tom Kelly**

*“To ask the Chief Executive for a total list of all voluntary, sporting, community and tidy towns groups that are provided with insurance cover by the Council, and to provide*



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*details of pay outs of claims, if any, outstanding payments due if any, and if the groups are fully aware of the insurance cover that they have.”*

### **Response**

Meath County Council does not provide insurance for any community, voluntary, sporting or tidy towns groups. It is a matter for each group to ensure they have adequate and appropriate insurance in place for their organisation.

Noted by the Councillors.

## **9 Notice of Motion**

### **9.1 Submitted by Councillor Trevor Golden**

*“Meath County Council to adopt Safe Cycling Ireland's **Stayin' Alive at 1.5** initiative. Supporting details can be found at <http://www.safecyclingireland.org/stayin-alive-at-1-5/>*

### **Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.**

This matter was referred to Meath Sports Partnership and the Staying Alive 1.5 information is now available for viewing on the Meath Sports Partnership website.

[www.meathsports.ie](http://www.meathsports.ie)

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Trevor Golden** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Keogan**, was unanimously adopted.

### **9.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin**

*“To call on Meath County Council to review its emergency response protocol when dealing with potential environmental catastrophes including flooding and chemical spills, on land, in rivers and at sea, throughout County Meath”*

### **Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.**

The Council's Major Emergency Plan provides for a co-ordinated response by various departments as well as outside agencies in dealing with emergencies, whether it is as a result of severe weather conditions, major transport accidents, serious fires, chemical or other pollution spills.



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While such emergencies are thankfully not a regular feature, one of the more recurring events is reports of discharges of oil or other liquids to water sources or the serious threat of such discharges. In such cases where there is an environmental risk, protocol dictates that Officials from the Environment Department who have been trained to deal with such instances, initiate thorough investigations as a matter of priority to determine the extent of the problem and tracing the source of the discharge in order that appropriate preventative measures can be put in place.

While occasionally companies have to be brought in with specialist equipment to eliminate or minimise the pollution, in most cases the trained officials can resolve the problem with the support of a specialist unit attached to the Meath Fire Service who are trained and fully equipped to tackle Chemical and Oil Spills. The Council's Civil Defence Units also provide very valuable support where pollution, flooding or other instances occur and all personnel involved respond to emergencies on a 24/7 day basis.

In respect of coastal pollution, a pollution response plan has been developed to guide personnel through the process required to manage a spill of oil or HNS (Chemicals) impacting or threatening to impact the shorelines of County Meath.

The Major Emergency Plan and other protocols pertaining to emergency situations are subject to constant review and updating where necessary.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade**. Following a lengthy debate on the matter, and subject to the supporting information, the motion was adopted. It was also agreed that an updated senior staff contact list would be circulated to all Councillors.

### **9.3 Submitted by Councillor Tom Kelly**

*"That Meath Co. Council prohibit spreading of slurry and sludge and all deleterious substances on land within 30Km of coastal areas of Meath."*

#### **Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.**

Sludge from Waste Water Treatment Plants and septic tanks can only be used in Agriculture in accordance with the Waste Management (Use of Sewage Sludge in Agriculture) Regulations, 1998 and the Waste Management (Use of Sewage Sludge in Agriculture) Regulations, 2001.

The storing of sewage sludge prior to spreading is regulated under the Waste Management (Registration of Sewage Sludge Facility Regulations 2010 and specifically a requirement to obtain a Certificate of Registration – premises used for storage of sludge are also subject to planning requirements.



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The EU Nitrates Directive and the European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations (known as GAP Regulations) made there under also provide a statutory basis for ensuring good agricultural practices to protect waters against pollution from agricultural sources.

In accordance with the aforementioned legal provisions, all persons proposing to spread sewage sludge must first seek written acceptance for the suitability of spread lands by submitting a Nutrient Management Plan to the Council and all parties are advised to engage the services of an Agricultural Consultant with specific experience in the area of Sludge Management.

Such plans when submitted are then risk assessed by trained Council Officials and particularly in respect of the suitability of the lands for sludge application including soil type, soil quality, soil nutrient status, local topography, buffer zones, proximity to local rivers, streams lakes etc and the status of the groundwater.

Where approval is granted for the Nutrient Management Plans, conditions are normally applied and include inter alia, adherence to buffer zones, the time period for spreading, notifications to local residents likely to be affected based on wind directions, and a requirement to notify Meath County Council in writing 5 days in advance of when delivery and spreading is due to take place.

It is pointed out that the Council in 2011 published a protocol to provide a clear and concise guide to all wastewater treatment plant operators, sludge handling contractors, consultants and landowners of the standards considered appropriate by the Council. Also the use of Biosolids or Sewage Sludge in agriculture shall follow the mandatory guidance in the 'Code of Good Practice for the use of Biosolids in Agriculture: Guidelines for farmers (DOEHLG, 1999) – this document sets out buffer zones from various receptors including houses, schools, lakes and main river channels, wells etc.

Notwithstanding the difficulties in applying and enforcing the prohibition sought in this motion, it is submitted that there is a statutory entitlement for the spreading of sludge on lands in the County, subject to compliance with the above mentioned Regulations and protocol.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Tom Kelly** and seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson**. Following a discussion on the matter and advice from Larry Whelan, SEO, Environment Department, the motion was referred to the Environmental SPC.

### **9.4 Submitted by Councillor Michael Gallagher**

*“To request that Meath County Council would write to the Minister for Communication Climate Action and Environment asking for an update on the National Broadband Plan*



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*and urging that there be expeditious works in rural areas to enable digital cottage industries to flourish, and to enable people to remain living in rural areas while working (telecommuting) elsewhere including overseas. In addition, we ask that he incorporates into the plan insurance that all Irish householders and businesses have access to a minimum broadband speed of 100Mbps /Ceist a chur ar Chomhairle Chontae na Mí scríobh chuig an Aire Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide agus Comhshaoil le haghaidh uasdhátú ar an bPlean Náisiúnta Leathanbhanda agus maidir le iachall a chur orthu tapa a chur le hoibreacha ar siúl i gceantair iargúlta chun ligint le tionscail baile digiteacha neartú agus ligint le daoine fanacht ina gcónaí i gceantair iargúlta fiú 's iad ag obair i gceantair eile (teileachomaitéireacht), thar lear san áireamh. Chomh maith le sin, iarraimid air cinntiú, mar chuid den phlean, go mbeadh teacht ar luas leathanbhanda 100Mbps ar a laghad, ag gach teach 's tionscal in Éirinn."*

### **Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.**

While the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment is responsible for the procurement process in relation to the National Broadband Plan, the rollout is the responsibility of the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (DAHRRGA).

The National Broadband Plan envisages minimum download speeds of 30 MBPS and minimum upload speeds of 6MBPS.

DAHRRGA has established two Broadband Action Groups to mirror the procurement lots. Meath is a member of the Southern Action Group and Minister Humphries has met the individual counties concerned to discuss the rollout in their areas. The Director of Housing, Community and Transportation is representing Meath County Council on the action group and is the lead person for local authority deliverables in relation to the National Broadband Plan.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Michael Gallagher** and seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson**.

A lengthy debate took place on the matter and it was unanimously agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Trevor Golden** that, in addition to adopting the motion, a letter would be written to the Department requesting that the Universal Service Obligation (USO) should be changed and brought up to not less than 2mb to allow adequate broadband access in all areas.

The motion was unanimously adopted.



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### 9.5 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

*"That the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, Simon Coveney TD be invited to address a meeting of Meath County Council at his earliest opportunity to discuss the housing crisis in our county and the Government's Action Plan / Go gcuire cuireadh roimh an Aire Tithíochta, Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúla Simon Coveney TD labhairt ag cruinniú Chomhairle Chontae na Mí chomh luath agus a oireann dó maidir leis an ngéarchéim tithíochta sa tír seo agus Plean Gníomhaíochta an Rialtais a phlé."*

The motion was withdrawn by **Councillor O' Rourke**.

### 9.6 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

*"Can I call on the Executive to write to the relevant Government Department with a view to including First Aid and CPR to all students in secondary schools throughout Ireland and if this notice of motion is adopted it will be sent to all other County Councils for consideration and support."*

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons**.

Following a debate on the matter, an amendment to the motion was proposed **Councillor Caroline Lynch** and seconded by **Councillor Claire O' Driscoll**.

The amended motion was unanimously adopted as follows:

*"Can I call on the Executive to write to the relevant Government Department with a view to including First Aid courses for all secondary school students throughout Ireland from 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> year, and to include CPR courses on the programme for Transition Year students. if this notice of motion is adopted it will be sent to all other County Councils for consideration and support."*

### 9.7 Submitted by the Ratoath Municipal District Councillors Group

*"That Meath County Council calls on the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government to advance the commitment in the "Putting People First" action plan to devolve much greater decision making to local Government, provide more stable funding and greater Local Authority discretion in relation to that funding and in particular to block Road Grants."*

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Gerry O' Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**, was unanimously adopted.



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### 9.8 Submitted by Councillor Eimear Ferguson

*“That we, as a Council, ask the Minister dealing with Direct Provision how many of the recommendations, from the report released 15 months ago, have been implemented to date / Go gcuirimid, mar Comhairle, ceist ar an Aire a phléann le soláthar díreach cé mhéad moltaí, ón tuairisc a eisíodh 15 mí ó shin, atá curtha i bhfeidhm go dtí seo.”*

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson** and seconded by **Councillor Maria O’ Kane**, was unanimously adopted.

### 9.9 Submitted by Councillor Sinéad Burke

*“That Meath County Council works with the Minister to amend the current nationwide directive which states tenants in arrears cannot be considered for housing adaptations or house transfers. The current rule is unfair and detrimental to tenants who have fallen behind in arrears due to ill health and now are in need of alternative living arrangements due to the same ill health. These cases should be treated on a case by case basis. /Go n-oibrí Comhairle Chontae na Mí leis an Aire maidir leis an treoir náisiúnta reatha a deireann nach nglacfar le tionóntaí a bhfuil riaráistí acu le haghaidh cóiriú tithíochta nó athrú tí. Tá an riail reatha míchothromach agus cuireann sé i gcoinne tionóntaí a bhfuil riaráistí acu de bharr tinneas agus anois a bhfuil socrúithe tithíochta eile uathu dá bharr. Ba chóir plé leis na cásanna seo cás i ndiaidh cás.”*

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Sinéad Burke** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**. Following a short debate on the matter, the motion was referred to the Housing, Community and Cultural SPC.

## 10 Schedule of Chief Executive & Approved Orders (For Information Only)

10.1 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Transportation

10.2 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Environment & Water Services

10.3 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Housing Department

10.4 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Community & Enterprise

Noted by the Councillors.

## 11 Presentations by other Bodies/Statutory Agencies





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### 11.1 Presentation in relation to Trim Town Hall petition campaign.

The presentation was made by two representatives from the campaign committee and they outlined the progress to date and presented the signatures gathered in support of the campaign.

The Cathaoirleach commended the quality of the presentation and it was duly noted by the Councillors present.

## **12 Any Other Business**